

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05750 192047Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7728

UNCLAS LA PAZ 5750

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI BL

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR HOSPITALIZATION BOLIVIAN ARMY LIEUTENANT
SARACHO

REF LA PAZ 5443

1. WE HAVE INFORMED BOLIVIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCREDIT LT. SARACHO AS ASSISTANT ARMY ATTACHE AND ALSO THAT ADMISSION TO WALTER REED ON A PAY BASIS IS MOST UNLIKELY. WE REPEATED OUR INQUIRY TO GORGAS HOSPITAL PANAMA FOR ADMISSION AND HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE APPROPRIATE FACILITIES TO ASSIST IN THIS CASE. SUBSEQUENTLY THE BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL BERNAL, PERSONALLY ASKED ME FOR MY SUPPORT IN OBTAINING APPROPRIATE MEDICAL CARE FOR LT. SARACHO AT GOB EXPENSE AT ANY SUITABLE USG HOSPITAL. HE HAS IN MIND THAT PERHAPS A MILITARY HOSPITAL OUTSIDE THE WASHINGTON AREA OR A VA OR PHS FACILITY MAY HAVE THE REQUISITE CAPABILITY TO UNDERTAKE CARE FOR THE INJURED LIEUTENANT. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL INTEREST OF SENIOR BOLIVIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND THE WILLINGNESS OF THE GOB TO COVER ALL COSTS, I URGE THAT STATE AND DOD, AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL INTEREST, IDENTIFY PROMPTLY A COMPETENT MEDICAL FACILITY FOR LT. SARACHO, PREFERABLY ONE UNDER USG AUSPICES.

2. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE HAS FILED A MESSAGE IN MILITARY CHANNELS TO DOD ELICITING SUPPORT IN THIS MATTER. COORDINATION BETWEEN STATE AND DEFENSE WILL BE NECESSARY. THE CARE FOR LT. SARACHO
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 05750 192047Z

HAS A SHORT TERM EMERGENCY CHARACTER AS WELL AS A LONGER RANGE

REHABILITATIVE ASPECT. ARMY PHYSICIANS ASSERT THAT HE IS CLOSE TO A TRAUMATIC PSYCHOSIS AND THAT HIS EYESIGHT MAY HAVE BEEN IMPAIRED AS A RESULT OF THE ACCIDENT IN WHICH HE LOST HIS LEFT LEG, ARM, AND FINGERS OF HIS RIGHT HAND.

3. BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE SEARCHED IN VAIN FOR APPROPRIATE CARE IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND ARE BOTH FRUSTRATED AND ANXIOUS. SINCE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASSERT THE CORRECT PRINCIPLE OF NON-ASSIGNMENT OF PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED OFFICERS AS ATTACHES, IT WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE MILITARY REGIME IF WE ARE ABLE TO BE HELPFUL WITH THIS URGENT REQUEST.
STEDMAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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